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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 HA-05 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 IO-14
TRSY-02 /086 W

-----009846 030429Z /21

R 311301Z MAY 79
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 860
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 3310
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
USUN NEW YORK 957
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 4338

E.O. 12065: GDS 5/29/85 (HALLMAN, WILLIAM H) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS - THE SIX WEEKLY TRENDS SUMMARY

REF: STATE 078829

1. IT IS HARDER EVEN THAN USUAL TO DISCERN "TRENDS"
IN ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS BEHAVIOR DURING THE PAST
SIX WEEKS. ENIGMATIC INFORMATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED
ABOUT THREE DISAPPEARANCES OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO
US--THE BARREIROS COUPLE AND MRS. JARA DE CABEZAS--
INDICATING THESE

PEOPLE MAY BE ALIVE--BUT IN IMPROBABLE
CIRCUMSTANCES. THESE AND OTHER DISAPPEARANCE REPORTS
WE HAVE ASKED ELEMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO INVESTIGATE
CONTINUE HOWEVER UNANSWERED AND UNRESOLVED.

2. THE FUTURES OF PEN DETAINEES ARE BEING RESOLVED

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WITH SOMEWHAT GREATER DISPATCH THAN USUAL (WE ARE
REPORTING SEPARATELY THAT 72 PEOPLE WERE ANNOUNCED

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RELEASED FROM PEN STATUS ON ARGENTINE'S 25 DE MAYO NATIONAL HOLIDAY, PLUS SOME OPTIONS AND EXCLUSIONS), BUT A DISCREPANCY NOW EXISTS BETWEEN OUR OWN PEN ESTIMATES (APPROXIMATELY 2,450 PEN PRISONERS AS OF MAY 19) AND THOSE OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR'S COL. SAN ROMAN (2,100) WHO COMMENTED AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME. WE BELIEVE THIS DIFFERENCE MAY BE ACCOUNTED FOR BY NUMBERS OF PRISONERS ASSIGNED TO TRIAL BY "COUNCILS OF WAR," BUT THESE TRIALS ARE NOT PUBLICIZED AND WE CANNOT CONFIRM THIS SPECULATION.

3. WE REPORTED (BUENOS AIRES 3757) SOME GOA EFFORTS TO LIST THE DISAPPEARED, BUT WE LACK SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION. NOR HAVE WE BEEN ABLE TO SUBSTANTIATE--OR DISCLAIM, FOR THAT MATTER--AS ASSERTION THAT NUMBERS OF "DISAPPEAREDS" WERE RECENTLY BROUGHT HERE TO BUENOS AIRES (SEE BUENOS AIRES 3993, FINAL PARAGRAPH).

4. LOOKING BACK TO LATE MARCH AND EARLY APRIL, WHEN THE VERY SMALL NUMBER OF DISAPPEARANCES REPORTS RECEIVED AT THE EMBASSY, TAKEN IMMEDIATELY TO GENERAL VIOLA'S OFFICE FOR INVESTIGATION, WERE ANSWERED QUICKLY AND APPARENTLY ACCURATELY--WE HAVE AN INEVITABLE SENSE OF LOST MOMENTUM, OF BACKSLIDING ON THE PART OF GOA OFFICES IN

COMING UP AT ONCE WITH USEFUL INFORMATION. IN PART IT MAY HAVE BEEN THE AMBASSADOR'S ABSENCE FROM BUENOS AIRES THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THIS, FOR VIOLA'S WILLINGNESS TO MOVE RESOLUTELY TO PROVIDE THE EMBASSY WITH INFORMATION IS BASED LARGELY ON THE AMBASSADOR'S ACCESS AND THE AMBASSADOR'S SENSE OF THE

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URGENCY AND IMPORTANCE OF INDIVIDUAL CASES. EVEN THIS LINK--NOW RESTORED-- MAY HOWEVER PROVE UNRESPONSIVE AND/OR UNCERTAIN WHEN WE MUST BURDEN IT SUDDENLY WITH SEVERAL WELL DESCRIBED NEW CASES (SZNAIDER, PEREZ BRANCATO, MALOSOVSKY--SEE BUENOS AIRES 4082) AND SEVERAL FAR LESS CERTAIN ONES-- GULLO AND MARRERO, FOR EXAMPLE, PLUS THREE DISAPPEARANCES THAT OCCURRED WITH THAT OF SZNAIDER FOR WHOM WE STILL LACK NAMES AND ADDRESSES.

5. WE ARE REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT THE APPARATUS FOR DISAPPEARING PEOPLE STILL EXISTS ALTHOUGH, EVEN

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CONSIDERING A SMALL UPSURGE OF REPORTED DISAPPEARANCES
IN THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, IT APPEARS LESS USED THAN
IN THE PAST. WHAT WE URGENTLY NEED IS A REASSERTION
OF TOP MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT THAT THE APPARATUS HAS
BEEN BROUGHT UNDER COMPLETE CONTROL OR, AT VERY LEAST,
CAN BE MADE TO ANSWER FOR ITS MISDEEDS.
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